

The Daily Gazetteer.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5. 1736.

No. 267.

Some Reflections occasioned by a Letter in the last Craftsman; from an unbias'd Englishman.



HERE was Policy, as well as Modesty in the Craftsman's disclaiming the Letter sign'd an unbias'd Englishman; it would have expos'd him to the Laughter of his own Readers, if he had in the least pretended to this Character; and I am afraid too, that his Correspondent will

not be able to escape it; if he does, it will be only where the Indignation of the Reader prevents his Merviment.

I confess I was a little surprized, after having read a Paper, every Sentence of which was full of Prejudice, and betrayed the grossest Partiality, to find it sign'd at Bottom, an unbias'd Englishman. At first, I concluded the Author had assumed this Character, to shew us that he was a Trader, and knew better than to cry stinking Fish, whatever he sold; but upon re-considering his Letter, I was satisfied that it had another Original; that the Author was a bewilder'd Scribe, and what I attributed to his Craft, was really an Effect of his Ignorance.

WHETHER this Writer had his Mind perplex'd, and his Ideas confounded, by constantly reading the Gazetteer, as he seems to insinuate, * I cannot pretend to determine; but I am of Opinion, that if his Mind had ever been right, and his Ideas ever clear, they would have been so still; or if he had been capable of clear Ideas, I am persuaded he would have been confuted, and not confounded by the Gazetteer. However this be, that his Understanding is now in a Wood, and his Ideas all confus'd, is without Dispute: He opposes an Argument in one Breath, and grants it in the next. He will pretend that he is quite blind, and can see nothing that you lay before him; but have Patience a Minute, and he will tell you, he sees all that you would have him see. The Gentleman who wrote the Gazetteer of the 7th of April, had very justly observ'd, with relation to the Answer which was given by an Honourable Person to the Dissenters, upon an Application for the Repeal of the Test Act some Years ago, that there might be prudential Reasons, which might not only justify, but make it the Duty of such a Person to declare no more than this, *That it was not a proper Time*; upon which the unbias'd Englishman observes, that he does not clearly see these Reasons; this is somewhat strange that he should not see them, when they were before him; when the Gazetteer asks the following Questions, If the absolute Refusal to do this for them, would have provok'd these Men to act a Part greatly to the Prejudice and Detriment of their Country, as well as of themselves, was it not wise? was it not honest? was it not the Duty of that Honourable Person to give them no other Answer than this, that it was not a proper Time?

BUT is it true, that our Author does not see the Reason of this Case? Is he not at last obliged to confess to the Reason of it? and does he not acknowledge, that upon the Supposition of this being a Truth, it was not only a wise, and an honest Part, but also the Duty of the Honourable Person to give them no other Answer?

SHOULD not then this unbias'd Englishman have here enter'd fairly into the Inquiry, from which the Debate was to be determin'd? Should he not have examin'd, candidly, whether such an absolute Denial would at that Time have had the Effect supposed? Let him consider the Circumstances of many of the Dissenters at that Time, and say, if he can, that it was not likely? Were not many of them fallen into the Prejudices that had been spread over the Nation by wicked and false Clamours, of a Design against the Liberties of the Nation, in the Governors thereof? Did not the Tories and Jacobites profess themselves Converts to Liberty, and coalte in Sentiments with the Whigs? Did they not invite the Dissenters into their Alliance? Did not they at this Time court them to enlist under their Banner, to repose themselves upon the Frankness of the Tories, and confide in their Generosity? — Might not then a

Refusal at this Time have given a Turn to the Conduct of the Dissenters, that might have prov'd fatal to themselves and their Country? Besides, was it possible for a Minister to see any farther at this Conjunction? It was evident, that the Nation was not ripe for this Alteration; the Pamphlets that were every Day published, and the Spirit that appeared in all Parts of the Nation, convinc'd most thinking, judicious Men, even of the Dissenters themselves, that if it had been insisted on at this Time, it would have light up the Flames of Religious Contention, and destry'd the Publick Tranquillity: All then that a Minister could do in this Juncture, consistent with his great Duty, which is in the first Place to consult the Peace of the Nation, was to shew, that it was not then a proper Time; he could go no further; he could not foresee that it would not go down now; he might hope, in a free Country, to have seen this Point within this Time so amply discussed, as to have united the Opinions of Mankind about it.

BUT if this is not the Case, if Men are as much divided as ever; if their Prejudices against each other, instead of being soften'd and allay'd, have been artfully and most industriously whetted and fomented; what Conduct ought a Minister to hold in such Circumstances? Ought not the Peace, the Quiet of the Nation, to be his governing Principle, the constant Object of his View? And if he cannot, without endangering the Tranquillity of his County, give Relief to any particular Body of Men, must not he prefer to their Petition the Peace of the whole Community?

No Man is more concern'd than I am, that we are in such unhappy Circumstances; but I think it is evident from what every where appears, that this is really our Case; our Religious Prejudices are not quite eradicated, and whoever considers the Spirit that was raised against the Repeal of the Test Act, as if the Safety of the whole Church Establishment was at Stake, will hardly think that we are yet capable of bearing perfect Liberty.

I cannot forget the Language of some Writers on this Occasion, and the Threatnings they breathed forth against the whole Government, in case they favoured the Dissenters.

* If this Scheme should take Effect, * says one of them, the King will court his own Ruin more than any of his Predecessors ever did; the Parliament will totally abandon their Care for the Publick Welfare; the Minister will shew himself weary both of his Post and his Head; and the Dissenters will, in all Probability, find, when it is too late, that they have raised a Devil they cannot lay.

AND whoever considers the Opposition from all Parts of the Kingdom, to so reasonable a Bill as that design'd for the Relief of the Quakers in the Case of Tythes; a Bill, which, by the Confession of their Opponents, is only to take from them a Power which they can never justly exercise; a Power, which no wife, no good Man will ever make use of: I say, whoever considers the Clamours that have been raised on this Occasion, will have Reason to fear, that the Repeal of the Test Act could not have taken Place, without hazarding the Quiet of the Kingdom.

IF then Ministers, who, from their exalted Stations, and enlarged Acquaintance with Mankind, must be more sensible of what Consequences are likely to follow any Alterations in the State than private Men, they should be induced, from a pure Regard to the Peace of their Country, to with-hold their Assistance, where they would otherwise gladly give it, or oppose what they would otherwise support, the fair and candid Examiner will judge of their Actions from their Motives and Ends, and not by the partial Evil which may be inevitably connected with the Design of general Good.

I have therefore thought it most extraordinary, that the Craftsman should flatter himself that so wise a Body of Men as the Dissenters will be seduced by him, to copy after his Example, and endeavour to turn the World upside down, to the Hazard of every Good they possess, because they have not the perfect Gratification of all their Wishes.

I believe there is not one cool Man among them,

who in the least imagines, that the Conduct of the Honourable Person whom the Craftsman defames, in relation to the Repeal of the Test Act, flowed from any Unfriendliness towards the Dissenters, any Pleasure in seeing their Liberties abridged; but solely from a REGARD to the publick Tranquillity.

THE Craftsman indeed, who laid in wait for Mischief, and kept himself neuter, that he might be at Liberty to whet the Resentments of that Party who should be dissatisfied with the Decision of this Affair, leaves no Stone unturned to create Prejudices in the Dissenters against the Government; for this Purpose he trump'd up a most false and scandalous Accusation of Perfidy; a Charge of Perfidiousness founded on no Breach of Faith, on no Violation of Promise; but only on a Declaration, that it was then not a proper Time. Surely the most abandoned must blush at such a Proceeding! The utmost that such a Declaration could, by any Construction of Words, be made to imply, is, that a proper Time may come; but not that this is the proper Time. No doubt a proper Time may come; a Time may come, when, by the Prevalence of Argument and Reason, the Generality of Mankind may be reconciled to the Dissenters Request; a Time may come, when the Objections which now remain in the Minds of those, whose Whiggism cannot be suspected, shall be cleared up, when Prejudices shall be removed, and Good-will so universally prevail, that the Alteration desired by the Dissenters, may not stand in any Competition with the Peace of the Nation.

THERE is Room to hope this in favour of the Dissenters, while their Moderation continues to recommend them to the Approbation of all Men, and to reconcile them to the most inveterate. It must be to the Satisfaction of every good Man, that we see they are not to be perverted by the base and dirty Insinuations of the Craftsman, from their Attachment to the present Government; and we learn with Joy, from the Author of the Old Whig, † that their future Behaviour will not be a Contradiction to their whole Lives. This Writer has told us the just Light in which the Dissenters already consider what has passed with relation to the Repeal of the Test Acts, and what we are to expect from their future Conduct. I cannot conclude better than by giving it my Readers in his own Words. * The Dissenters, says he, sollicited this Affair as a publick Benefit, not as a private Interest. If the Publick would have accepted their Services in burdensome Offices, they were ready to have discharged them; if they are excused, the Trouble and Expence is saved: Beneficial Offices they neither expected nor desired. As they thought they could serve the Interest of Liberty, they applied; as the Legislature has rejected their Application, they acquiesce. They rejoice much that so considerable a Part of it shewed so friendly a Disposition towards them; they approve of the Persons Conduct who opposed from Principle; they hope that was the Case of all who did oppose them, and, if it was not, they sincerely pity them.

BRITANNUS.

P. S. I had the Pleasure to observe in my last, that the old-fashioned Whig was, in a great Degree, restored to his Understanding, by his Royal Highness's excellent Answer to the Person who applied to him on Behalf of the Quakers. I have now the Satisfaction to hear, that he is quite recovered, gone down into the Country as good a Whig as ever, and protests he will never believe a Craftsman more.

HERE too I shall take the Opportunity, since I have mentioned the Quakers, to do Justice to that wise and prudent Body of Men, with regard to the Application before spoken of, by informing the Publick, that they, as a People, never made such an Application, nor did they appoint any Man to make it for them, so that the Person who made it, is to be regarded as their generous Friend, whose Zeal for their Cause led him to take such a Step, but can, by no Means, be considered as their Deputy, for such he was not.

* Dissert. on the Sacram. p. 29.

† Old Whig, April 22, 1736.



Warsaw, April 14. O. S.

KING Stanislaus is still at Angersburg, whither this Court has sent him the necessary Passports which have been desired for his safe Passage thro' the Electorate of Saxony, under the Name of the Count de Ligny; so that it is doubted here whether he will take Berlin in his Way. The Great Treasurer Ossolinsky will come hither as soon as King Stanislaus goes from Angersburg, and it is thought he will lay down his Charge in Favour of M. Mofinski, Treasurer of the Court, and who has had the Administration of the Treasury ever since the Coronation of King Augustus. Conferences have been lately held between the Senators of the Kingdom and Baron Keyserling, the Czarina's Minister, but were broke off some Days ago without any final Resolution being taken. Those Conferences are to be renewed some Days before the Meeting of the General Dyst: In the mean time, Baron Keyserling expects new Instructions from the Court of Russia. Here arrive from time to time such Polish Lords who had not acknowledged King Augustus: Hardly any Persons of Consequence remain to come in, but the fore-mentioned Great Treasurer of the Crown, and the Starost Jafelski, who was Marshal of the Confederation of Diskow.

Hague, April 27. O. S. The States of the Province of Holland will re-assemble To-morrow, most of the Deputies being arrived. M. Borre de Chavane, the new Minister to the States General from the King of Sardinia, is arrived here; and the Count de Canales, whom he succeeds, is preparing to set out hence in a few Days, on his Journey to Turin. The Swedish Minister presented lately a Memorial to the States General, inviting them to join their good Offices with those of the King his Master, and other Protestant Powers, for dispossessing the Emperor and the French King to consent, that, by the Treaty of Pacification now about to be made, the fourth Article of the Treaty of Ryswick, relating to Affairs of Religion, may be annulled. To which Memorial their High Mightinesses have returned Answer, that they will send Orders to their Ministers residing at the proper Courts, to concur with those of other Protestant Powers, in their Endeavours to get the said Article annulled.

BANKRUPT.

Richard Tireman, of London, Merchant.

Yesterday Bank Stock was 147 1-half to 3 4ths. India 174 3-4ths. South Sea 97 5-8ths. Old Annuity 110 1-half. New ditto, 110 3-4ths. Three per Cent. 104 to 1-8th. Emperor's Loan 116 to 1-8th. Royal Assurance 168. London-Assurance 14 to 1-8th. York Buildings 2. African 10. India Bonds 61. 4 s. to 6 s. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 51. 7 s. to 8 s. Prem. South Sea Bonds 51. 17 s. to 18 s. Prem. New Bank Circulation 71. Prem. Salt Tallies 4 to 6 Prem. English Copper 21. 3 s. Welsh ditto, no Price. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 5 1-half per Cent. Prem. Million Bank 114.

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Dublin, printed: London, Reprinted for W. Webb, near Pater-noster-Row, 1736.

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